

London Corporation Common Council

A N A C T

For Preventing and Suppressing
O F

FIRES

WITHIN THE

City of London,

A N D

LIBERTIES thereof.



LONDON.
Printed by *Andrew Clark*, Printer to the Honourable
City of L O N D O N. M. DC. LXXVII.



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Commune Concilium tenet in Camera Guilhald' Civitatis
 London, die Veneris, decimo quinto die Novembris,
 Anno Domini 1667. Annôque Regni Domini nostri
 CAROLI Secundi, Dei Gratia, Angliæ, Scotiæ,
 Franciæ & Hiberniæ Regis, Fidei Defensoris, &c.
 decimo nono, coram Willielmo Peak Milite, Majore
 Civitatis London, Thoma Aleyn Milite & Baronetto,
 Aldermanno, Johanne Laurence, Thoma Bloudworth,
 Willielmo Bolton, Willielmo Turner, Willielmo
 Hooker, Militibus, Aldermannis, Francisco Afty Ar-
 migero, Aldermanno, ac Dionytio Gauden & Thoma
 Davies Militibus, Aldermannis, & Vicecomitibus ejus-
 dem Civitat', nec non majore parte Communitariorum
 de Communi Concilio ejusdem Civitat' tunc & ibidem
 assemblat'.

W Hereas the late fierce and outrageous
 FIRE which happened in this City
 (continuing violently, to the great
 Astonishment of all Beholders, more
 than the space of four Days and four Nights) burnt,
 destroyed and consumed the greatest part of the
 Churches and Dwelling-houses, rendring very many of

the Inhabitants calamitous, and much impoverished by the great Losses they sustained, and is by all justly represented as a most sad and dismal Judgment of Heaven: For the Prevention, Avoiding and suppressing (as much as humane Prudence is capable of) the like deplorable (and still too too visible) Events, and dreadful Danger of *Fire* for the future, within this City, and Liberties thereof, Be it ordained, Enacted and Established by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen his Brethren, and the Commons in this Common-Council assembled, and by the Authority of the same, in manner and form following; that is to say,

I. That the City, and the Liberties thereof, shall be divided and appointed into four equal *Parts* or *Quarters*; and the East Part or Quarter to contain these *Wards* following, viz. *Portoken, Aldgate, Tower, Billingsgate, Bridge, Langborn, and Lime-street*; the West Part or Quarter to contain *Farringdon within, Farringdon without, Castle-Baynard, Cheapside, and Aldersgate*; the North Part or Quarter to contain *Cornhil, Broadstreet, Colemanstreet, Bassishaw, Bishopsgate, and Cripplegate*; and the South Part or Quarter to contain *Queenhithe, Bread-street, Vintry, Cordwainer, Dowgate, Walbrook, and Candlewick-street*.

II. *Item*, That every of the said Quarters shall be furnished and provided at or before the Feast of the Birth of our Lord God next ensuing, of Eight Hundred *Leathern Buckets, Fifty Ladders, viz. Ten Forty two Foot long, Ten Thirty Foot long, Ten Twenty Foot long, Ten Sixteen Foot long, and Ten Twelve Foot long*;

long ; as also of so many *Hand-Squirts* of Brass as will furnish two for every Parish, Four and twenty *Pickax-Sledges*, and Forty *Shod Shovels*.

III. *Item*, That every one of the Twelve Companies provide and keep in readiness Thirty *Buckets*, One *Engine*, Six *Pickax-Sledges*, Three *Ladders*, and Two *Hand-Squirts* of Brass.

IV. *Item*, That all the other inferior Companies provide and keep in readiness *Buckets* and *Engines* proportionable to their Abilities, of which those least able, to provide portable *Engines* to carry up stairs into any Rooms or Tops of Houses ; the number of which *Buckets* and *Engines* to be from time to time prescribed and allotted by the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermens Direction.

V. *Item*, That every Alderman who hath passed the Office of Shrievalty, provide Four and Twenty *Buckets*, and One *Hand-Squirt* of Brass ; and all those who have not been Sheriffs, Twelve *Buckets* and One *Hand-Squirt* of Brass, to be kept in their respective Dwellings : and all other principal Citizens and Inhabitants, and every other person being a Subsidy-man, or of the degree of a Subsidy-man, shall provide and keep in their Houses a certain number of *Buckets* according to their quality.

VI. *Item*, That the several Inhabitants and Furniture of each respective Quarter shall remain and abide within their own Quarters, and not go out farther ; excepting

ing only such serviceable persons of other Quarters fit to take pains in that behalf, who may be called to yield their help as need shall require; and none other Persons or Furniture, without special Order of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs from the time being.

VII. *Item*, It is farther Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That in every of the said Quarters or parts of this City by the Advice of the Aldermen and Common-Council of each several Ward within that Quarter, there shall be chosen, retained and appointed for each Ward one honest and sufficient person, dwelling within the same, to be *Bell-man* there, who shall from henceforth every Night, from the Feast of *S. Michael*, until the *Annunciation* of *S. Mary*, diligently walk up and down within the same Ward, from Ten of the Clock in the Night, till Five of the Clock next Morning. Their Wages or Salaries to be levied within their respective Wards, according as the same shall be assessed by the Common-Council of the same Ward, or the greatest part of them.

VIII. *Item*, That every Householder upon any Cry of Fire, shall place a sufficient man at his Door well armed, and hang out a Light at his Door, if in the Night-time; upon default whereof, every party offending, shall forfeit Twenty shillings.

IX. *Item*, That every Householder shall, during the time of any Fire, have Water in a Vessel ready at his Door to quench and suppress all farther increase of the Fire.

X. *Item*,

X. *Item*, That in every of the said four Quarters or Parts of this City a noted *Bell* be rung from *Lady-day* to *Michaelmas* at Ten of the Clock every Night, and at Five of the Clock every morning; and from *Michaelmas* to *Lady-day*, at Eight of the Clock every Night, and Seven of the Clock every Morning; at which respective Hours the *Watch* shall punctually sit and rise, who as soon as they are met together, one out of every Watch shall be sent the Rounds into every part of the Ward, and at his return another shall be sent out, and so successively all night long without intermission, for Prevention of Fire, Robbing or other inconvenience.

XI. *Item*, That every Inhabitant prepare some secure place in their Dwellings (not under or near any stair-case) to lay in their *Seacoal-Ashes*, *Embers*, or any other sort of *Fire-Ashes*; and that the said Ashes be quenched with water every Night before they go to Bed: and that all Constables make inquiry of the Security of *Hearths*, *Ovens*, and *Stoves*, and places for laying *Fire-Ashes* in, twice every year.

XII. *Item*, That *Plugs* be put into the *Pipes* in the most convenient places of every Street, whereof all Inhabitants may take notice, that breaking of the Pipes in disorderly manner may be avoided.

XIII. *Item*, That as many *Wells* as can be found may be provided in every Street, with *Pumps*, placed conveniently for furnishing of Water, especially in Frosty weather, when other Water may be scarce.

XIV. *Item*, That the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, as also the Deputies and Common-Council-men of such Ward where any Fire shall happen, have speedy notice thereof by several Messengers to be dispatched from the Constables upon the first Discovery.

XV. *Item*, That at all such times the Lord Mayor be attended with all his *Officers*, with the *Marshals* and all their men, as also the *City Workmen* and their *Labourers*, the *Bridg-Master* with the *Bridg-house Officers* and *Workmen*, and their *Labourers*, who are all upon notice of any Fire forthwith to repair to the Lord Mayor, and to observe such directions as shall be given them; the Sheriffs also to be attended with all their *Officers*, upon pain to them of forfeiting Three pounds in default of such their Attendance.

XVI. *Item*, That the several Companies of *Carpenters*, *Bricklayers*, *Plasterers*, *Painters*, *Masons*, *Smiths*, *Plumbers*, and *Paviors*, do yearly for each Company elect two Master-Workmen, four Journey-men, eight Apprentices, and sixteen Labourers, to be ready upon all occasions of Fire to attend the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs for quenching the same.

XVII. *Item*, That all Workmen and Labourers belonging to any publick *Water-works* within the City, the *Seacoal-meters*, *Porters*, *Blackwel-hall Porters*, *Leaden-hall Porters*, *Ticket-Porters*, and *Package-Porters*, do constantly attend the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in such Services; and that a List of all the Names of the afore-mentioned persons, with the places of their Abode

Abode, be brought yearly in a Table to the Lord Mayor elect upon the first day of *October*, to be placed in the Hall of the said Lord Mayor to publick view ; and that henceforth the admittances of all such persons may be upon the same Condition.

XVIII. *Item*, That all persons, unless such as are employed or allowed by the Lord Mayor or Sheriffs, Aldermen, Deputies, or Common-Council-men, do keep (during the time of any Fire) within their own Dwellings, until they are summoned to give their Aid ; that so Disorder and Confusion in the Streets may be prevented.

XIX. *Item*, That all the Constables and Watch-men of the Ward where any Fire happens, assemble immediately at such place, and there attend on the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and follow their Directions.

XX. *Item*, That all *Brokers* on the *Exchange* (according to their Obligation at their Admittance) do attend, in order to take care for such Goods and Household-stuff as may be removed.

XXI. *Item*, That yearly there be chosen some able Citizen and skilful *Engineer*, to attend the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs or any of them upon such Accident, who by their Advice is to give his Assistance and to blow up by their Direction such Houses, whereby the increase of the Fire may be most probably prevented ; and that Labourers be appointed to attend such Engineer.

XXII. *Item*, That the Lord Mayor; Aldermen and Sheriffs, Deputies, Common-Council-men, Engineer, and all persons appointed and required by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs to be aiding in suppressing and extinguishing the Fire, by blowing up, or pulling down Houses, shall be indemnified by this Court.

XXIII. *Item*, That all persons whose Houses shall be blown up, or otherwise demolished, for the prevention of the increase of Fire, shall have such Damages as the Common Council shall award; and that all persons labouring therein, shall be awarded, as by Order of the Court of Aldermen shall be appointed; and that a Rate be laid by the Common-Council on the remaining Houses of the City and Liberties for satisfying thereof.

XXIV. *Item*, That once a Quarter the Deputy and Common-Council of every Ward return Certificates to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, of the Numbers and Condition of their *Buckets, Engines, Ladders*, and all other Necessaries of that nature, and the Engineer to examine the same, that on all occasions they may be found in readiness; and that the Certificates of *Michaelmas* Quarter be returned as well to the Lord Mayor elect, as to the Lord Mayor.

XXV. *Item*, That such quantities of *Powder* as shall be thought fit by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen, shall be provided by the several Wards, and the several Companies of this City respectively, and laid up in such convenient places as the said Lord Mayor and Court

Court of Aldermen shall from time to time direct and appoint; and that the principal Engineer make trial of all such *Powder*, that being satisfied of the strength and goodness thereof, he may the better use it accordingly.

XXVI. *Item*, That no person whatsoever be henceforth permitted at any time to make, or cause to be made any sort of *Fire-works*, or to fire, or cause to be fired any such *Fire-works*, within the City or Liberties thereof, except such persons only as shall be thereunto appointed by His MAJESTY, or any lawful Authority under him.

XXVII. *Item*, That no *Gun-powder* be kept within the Walls of the City (except, as aforesaid) but in such secure places as shall be allowed and approved by the Court of Aldermen.

XXVIII. *Lastly*, That no person lay *Hemp*, *Flax*, *Wax*, *Gun-powder*, *Pitch*, *Tarr*, *Brimstone*, *Robin*, or the like combustible Commodities, in any Cellar, Warehouse, or other place on that side next the Street, which by the shaking of Links, Torches, or casting in of other Fire at the Windows next the Street, may be in danger of such Fire.

And it is farther Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That all and singular the Peins, Penalties and Forfeitures which shall be forfeited or incurred by virtue of this Act, shall be obtained, levied and recovered, either by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information

formation in the name of the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being, in the **KINGS MAJESTIE's** Court holden in the Chamber of the *Guild-Hall* of the said City, before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the said City for the time being ; in which no *Essoign*, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be admitted or allowed for the Defendant : and the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being, in all Suits to be prosecuted by virtue of this Act against any Offender or Offenders, shall recover the ordinary Costs of Suit, to be expended in or about the prosecution of them, or any of them : And that all such Peins, Penalties and Forfeitures (the Charges of Suit for Recovery thereof being first deducted) shall be divided into two equal Parts, one Moiety whereof to be paid unto the Treasurer of *Christis Hospital* (for the time being) to be employed toward the Maintenance of the poor Children harboured and kept in the said Hospital ; and the other Moiety to him or them that will sue for the same, any other Act or Ordinance to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

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